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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-04 NSAE-00
 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 IO-13 ACDA-19
 AF-12 RSR-01 /136 W

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R 021815Z APR 70
 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1407
 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USNATO 1273

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 3940

SUBJ: PAUL VISIT TO PARIS

REF: STATE 27257, PARIS 2255 AND PARIS 3734

1. PAUL VISITED EMBASSY APRIL 1 FOR BRIEFING: (PARIS 2255). HE WAS RELAXED AND QUESTIONS WERE GENERALLY ROUTINE IN NATURE AND OFTEN RELATED TO HISTORICAL RATHER THAN PRESENT OR FUTURE EVENTS. BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION FOLLOWING IT WERE LOW-KEY AND EMPHASIZED GROWING US-FRENCH RAPPROCHEMENT OVER PAST TWO YEARS WITH INCREASED COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS IN ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND INTERNATIONAL MATTERS.

2. PAUL ASKED ABOUT MARCH 28 PARIS HERALD-TRIBUNE MIDDLETON ARTICLE WHICH TALKED OF EXPANDED FRENCH TIES WITH NATO AS RESULT OF POMPIDOU'S VISIT TO US. WE REPLIED ALONG LINES PARIS 3734.

3. PAUL REQUESTED AND RECEIVED GENERAL RUN-DOWN ON FRENCH STRATEGIC DELIVERY SYSTEMS, NUMBER AND DEPLOYMENT OF FRENCH NUCLEAR WARHEADS, AND FRANCE'S BASIC DEFENSE POSTURE. HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT RAISE QUESTIONS OF FR/UK NUCLEAR FORCE, OR FUTURE EUROPEAN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS. HE ASKED ABOUT FRENCH VIEWS ON ANY POSSIBLE US TROOP WITHDRAWALS. WE TOLD HIM THAT ON PUBLIC

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LEVEL (E.G. POMPIDOU) FRENCH WISHED TO SEE US TROOPS IN EUROPE IN SUFFICIENT NUMBER TO GIVE CREDENCE TO US DETERRENT. IN ADDITION THEY PRIVATELY FEARED POSSIBLE EXPANSION BY FRG OF ITS FORCES TO FILL VOID LEFT BY ANY US TROOP REDUCTIONS. HE DID NOT TAKE LINE WITH US HAT REDUCTIONS WERE FOREGONE CONCLUSION; BUT ONLY A POSSIBILITY.

4. PAUL EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN FRENCH INTERNAL AFFAIRS EMBASSY ACCORDINGLY GAVE HIM STANDARD EMBASSY REVIEW OF ECONOMIC SITUATION, STUDENT UNREST, AND GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF LABOR PROBLEMS. HE ALSO ASKED ABOUT FRENCH MEDITERRANEAN POLICY. WE RESPONDED BY NOTING FRENCH BELIEVE THEY ARE FILLING VACUUM IN LIBYA, HAVE HISTORIC AND ECONOMIC TIES IN MAGHREB AND NEAR EAST AND ARE CONCERNED RE THEIR SOUTHERN FLANK AND NEED MAINTAIN TRANS-SAHARAN AIR ROUTES TO THEIR FORMER AFRICAN COLONIES.

5. PAUL ENDED BY NOTING HE WAS IN PARIS ON VACATION BUT WOULD GET BACK TO US IF HE HAD ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS. HE CALLED BACK ON APRIL 2 AND ASKED FOR BRIEF PAPER ON FRENCH WORK IN THE ENVIRONMENT FIELD WHICH WE PROMISED PREPARE FOR HIM. GP-3.
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